

## 12-15-15 Shelburne Agricultural Commission Minutes

Beth Manning, chair	Christine Johnston
Carolyn Wheeler, treas.	Ernest Kelley
Barbara Parry	Prudence Wholey, sec.

Meeting called to order at 7 PM, Shelburne Center fire station

The minutes of the Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and accepted.

In a bit of brainstorming, we discussed ways to get Shelburne products to the public. Farmers' markets are one way, but with perishable goods, there are a lot more logistics to consider. The logo is one way for people to add value to their wares. A website is a useful tool.

Connectivity is a major issue for many farmers. Since some of them have no access to high speed Internet, it is hard to market on line.

A Facebook page might help, perhaps a "Shelburne Grown" page.

This all boils down to marketing, as we have discussed many times. We really want to provide some help to farmers in town, other than CISA, Farm Service Agency, and Farm Viability grants. All these are in place. We may hold a meeting where farmers are invited to voice their concerns and provide input.

There are several graphic artists who do design work for advertising and promotion. One mentioned is Lynn Nichols of Starstruck Design.

Our next meeting will be to start the next harvest dinner plans. We need to decide on a date. Also, Beth has to plan around her commitments.

Beth reported on the latest pipeline news. The town filed for intervener status as have some landowners. It was suggested that concerned people can comment on the FERC website. Beth will ask the select board if it would be appropriate for the Ag. Com. to also file for intervener status or at least make a formal comment on the FERC site.

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We need to find out what the rules are for the money that we have accumulated, especially the grant money.

Carolyn said that Jonathon Graves might be interested in either becoming a member or coming to meetings as an interested party. He will try and come to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM. Our next meeting will be on January 19, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Wholey